

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group (TISWG)
Meeting Minutes - June 26, 2008

Thompson Conference Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive Room 3-108
Austin, Texas
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Participants: Angela Craig, Glaxo Smith Kline Vaccines; Angela Stricklin, Merck Vaccines; Anita Colbert LVN, Tarrant County Public Health; Anna C. Dragsbeck, Houston Area Immunization Partnership; Ashley Ales, Novartis Vaccines; Barry Lachman MD, Texas Association of Health Plans; Brad Bracken, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines; Carrie Kroll, Texas Pediatric Society; Clark Petty, San Antonio Metro Health District; David Barker, Glaxo Smith Kline Vaccines; Ed Kothera, Medimmune Vaccines; Fran Kirkley, Tarrant County Public Health; Frankie Milley, Meningitis Angels; Holly Turner, Merck Vaccines; Jason Terk MD, Texas Pediatric Society; Kathy Dreyer, University of North Texas Senior and Volunteers for Childhood Immunization Program, SVCI; Laura Lerma RN, Texas Nurses Association; Leslie Myers RPh, Randall's Tom Thumb Pharmacies; Neil Levy DO, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Sandra Hermosa, San Antonio Metro Health District; Tamera Deuser MD, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Terrence Campbell, Houston Health and Human Services Department; Velma Gonzales, Texas Department of Rehabilitative Services/ Early Childhood Intervention; and Whitney Monge RN, Texas Association of Community Health Centers.

Facilitator: Dan Walters, Dan Walters Associates

New Members and Guests: Hiram Kuykendall, Joachim Streak, Micro Assist; Keith Cunniff, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals; Patricia Harwood, Lori C. Bush RN, Lori Koehler, Medimmune Vaccines; Ron Steen, Doug Rack, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines, and Stephanie Campbell, Novartis Vaccines.

DSHS Staff:

David Scott, Tim Hawkins, and Vivian Harris, Disease Prevention and Intervention Section; Jack Sims, Karen Hess, Lupe M Garcia, Monica Gamez, Anita Freeman RN, Amy Schlabach, Charles Yowell, Nancy Sheppard, Sheila Tucker, Dianne Romnes, HSR 7, Immunization Branch; Kathy Clements RN, Texas Health Steps; Kim Petrilli, TITLE V Program; Rita Espinoza, Sandra Morris, Infectious Disease Control Unit; and Carole Donsbach RN, Hepatitis B Program, DSHS Programs.

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. David Scott and Mr. Dan Walters

Mr. Scott welcomed all workgroup participants. Participants were asked to review the minutes from the last meeting. As no changes or corrections were identified, the minutes are now final. The February TISWG minutes can be accessed through the following website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/tiswg.shtm>.

Influenza Road Map Outline: Mr. Tim Hawkins and Mr. Jack Sims

- Mr. Hawkins discussed the Influenza plan utilizing recommendations provided by the participants at the February TISWG meeting. He provided updates on work that DSHS has done since the last meeting. He addressed the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations

concerning administering a yearly flu vaccine to children ages 6 months to 18 years of age. At the last meeting TISWG members specifically discussed what immunizations in Texas could look like in the year 2013 following the “Influenza Road Map”. Mr. Hawkins explained that TISWG recommendations were currently being considered by DSHS to brainstorm the flu plan. The working group’s recommendations from the February meeting are available online and can be accessed at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/tiswg.shtm>).

- Mr. Hawkins also discussed a listing of those recommendations that DSHS is unable to pursue. If at all possible, TISWG members were encouraged to pursue these efforts within their sphere of influence. The following points were made:
 - Development of the Influenza Road Map and plan is in the initial phases. It will serve as an educational tool for the legislature, public, vaccine manufacturers and other interested partners. A report will accompany this plan.
 - A proposed evaluation of what the recommendation and/or requirement of flu vaccination for children 18 years and younger would mean for the state of Texas will be explored.
 - Mr. Sims announced DSHS may be able to accomplish some of the recommendations. Some items reported are already in progress where other items may involve working with others such as corporate partners. (See handouts).
 - One of the recommendations suggested by TISWG was to provide incentives to corporations to vaccinate their employees. Currently there are no incentives offered by DSHS at this time.
- Additional ideas concerning improving the influenza vaccinations system in Texas were discussed among the participants and included such ideas as providing financial incentives for vaccinations and utilizing pharmacies as alternative vaccination sites:
- Participants addressed vaccine manufacturing, supply, and delivery issues. Three items were identified as follows:
 - Adequate amount of flu vaccine is expected this year.
 - Providers will have choice of flu vaccine.
 - “Buy Back” processes are arranged differently among vaccine manufacturers. You must contact each manufacturer to learn more about their company’s “buy back” process.
- Participants also discussed improving cost effectiveness for flu vaccine: These items were also identified as follows:
 - Providers should receive flu vaccine earlier this year, which would also help with back to school promotions. We no longer have to wait until October 1st to start vaccinating.
 - From the health plans perspective, vaccinating family members of high risk individuals is recommended.
 - Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers can start vaccinating earlier.
- Mr. Sims reported the CDC and McKesson Corporation will begin to notify DSHS how much vaccine choice for providers we will have once the vaccine starts to arrive. DSHS should be able to send providers vaccine in several small shipments or larger and fewer shipments. Providers are recommending “the sooner the better”.
- Mr. Hawkins thanked the participants for their robust review and discussion of this topic. He stated he would keep the working group up-to-date with the progress of the Influenza Roadmap report.

Texas Vaccine Education Online: Ms. Anita Freeman, Mr. Hiram Kuykendall, and Mr. Joachim Streak

- Ms. Anita Freeman presented an introduction of the Texas Vaccine Education Online. She shared the ideas and implementation of this project as online learning through modules from different aspects of the Immunization Branch and its services. She introduced the speakers from Micro Assist and commended them for their roles in the development of the training module.
- Hiram Kuykendall provided an overview of the vaccine education online program. He stated it is directed to healthcare providers, but also includes other professional disciplines. The modules are divided by topic. The program engages the user to increase memory recall of items by using periodic questions and quizzes on what the user has learned. The designers are currently working on the Spanish version of the program. Continuing education (CE) credits will be added at a future date.
- The presenters demonstrated the Texas Vaccine Education Online program and showed how to enter the program's website for both the public and provider users.
- TISWG participants suggested two additional modules be added to the online education system: 1) Cultural Competency; and 2) Dispelling myths related to vaccines and autism.
- Vaccine Education Online can be found at this address: <http://www.vaccineeducationonline.org>.

Documentation Changes Recording Combination Vaccines: Ms. Lupe Garcia

- Ms. Garcia presented a rising issue concerning how combination vaccines are recorded on the immunization record in addition to maintaining the continuity of service for each person vaccinated.
- Ms. Garcia discussed various issues and next steps related to the documentation:
 - There is a need to explore the trade names that would reflect the manufacture and also a need to index all the trade names for proper documentation.
 - The documentation would need to define what antigens the trade names contain.
 - By law, documentation requires the name of the manufacturer, and specifically trade names and their doses. New documentation will require identification of the brand series and if the antigen for Hepatitis B for example, is a 2 dose series or a 3 dose series.
 - Recording the lot numbers and the route of administration might be useful.
 - The new forms will need to be tested by physicians, school nurses, and child-care centers for usability.
 - There is the possibility of creating a life time record on a single card. Once a form is created providers could access the document in the registry and generate a hard copy as needed.
- Next Steps: Mrs. Garcia will email to the group samples and solicit comments.

Anticipated Changes to Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program: Ms. Karen Hess

- Ms. Hess provided an update on the VFC program and discussed the new vaccines to be added to the TVFC program (see PowerPoint presentation).
- CDC has updated their operations manual to include fraud and abuse guidelines. An internal CDC working group on fraud and abuse has submitted recommendations.
- Updated TVFC vaccine storage equipment is forthcoming. DSHS will provide certified calibrated thermometers for all TVFC providers. Based on feedback received on the thermometers, a memo is being drafted by DSHS that will include information on the

calibration, and specific refrigerator requirements. There should be adequate space in refrigerators to store vaccines properly. The freezer and refrigerators area must be separate and have separate doors. Dorm style refrigerators are no longer acceptable. Providers may have to rearrange storage space.

- Flu ordering during the 2006 and 2007 period revealed that 75% of TVFC providers ordered flu vaccine this past season. In over two years the order amount of flu vaccine has doubled. Historically most flu vaccine doses have been administered in October.
- The accessibility of Flu Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) has raised an issue. Previously VIS had been shipped with the vaccine. This is no longer the case. Many providers currently can order VIS online, but some providers do not have internet access. DSHS is currently exploring a workable solution.
- Next Steps: To discuss documenting the flu vaccine on the shot record. In light of the new recommendations will space need to be added on the current forms?

Immunization Branch Updates: Mr. Jack Sims

- Due to the recent pertussis deaths in children too young to be vaccinated, Mr. Sims introduced the concept of “cocooning” and primarily how can we engage the birthing centers in this effort. Cocooning consists of vaccinating everyone that will encounter the new infant at birth, protecting them until they are able to begin appropriate vaccination.
- Meeting participants discussed their concerns regarding pertussis:
 - Improve collaboration between pediatricians and OB/GYN practitioners; be sure to educate during pregnancy counseling.
 - Educate parents on the importance of TDaP.
 - Educate nursing staff and encourage hospitals to develop policies and committees to address the issue to staff.
 - Educate parents and grandparents at flu clinics. Plan to administer TDaP during flu clinics.
 - Work in collaboration with vaccine manufactures and insurers for cost benefit.
 - Collaborate with Texas Children’s Hospital to educate on the importance of vaccinations against vaccine preventable diseases. Particularly focus on Pertussis vaccine for the entire family.
 - Refer and use the Collin County pilot study regarding costs/benefits of vaccinating families with TDaP.
 - Create a PSA TV commercial with families that have lost an infant too young to be vaccinated.
 - Develop education campaigns and focus on younger families who may not know what the disease is or what it may look like.
 - Consider focusing on TDaP for adults
 - Inform the public they need at least two years between Td and TDaP, then resume Td every 10 years or as prescribed by their medical home.
 - Offer VFC to families that are uninsured or underinsured.

Conference Update from National Conference on Immunization and Health Coalitions: Ms. Vivian Harris

- Mrs. Harris discussed her attendance at the 8th National Conference on Immunization and Health Coalitions held in San Francisco, California on May 20-23, 2008. Ms. Harris and Ms. Frankie Milley served on the planning committee.
- Four countries were represented at this meeting that included for the first time coalition members from other health collaborations. A PowerPoint presentation is attached.

- Dr. Fran Butterfoss, a pioneer of immunization coalitions, introduced her newly released textbook on partnerships.
- A great deal of discussion was generated at the conference with an idea of health coalitions working together across programs. Many target the same populations; therefore, it would benefit the state to explore potential collaboration, e.g. immunizations and asthma coalitions.
- The issue of adolescent immunization received a lot of attention during this conference.
- Texas was well represented by immunizations, asthma, diabetes, and smoking cessation coalitions. The future goal is to build on the new discoveries made. These potential partners were invited to participate in TISWG.
- An additional highlight of the conference was meeting the newly formed Western Australian Immunization Alliance. This group built their alliance based on some of the foundation and charge created by TISWG. We discovered we had similar challenges. Although their structure is very different from ours the obstacles were the same. They also strive to serve hard to reach populations and correct issues of mis-information. We agreed to continue to work with this coalition group. Ms. Harris showed their Flu campaign video which proved to be very informative.

Announcements: All

- Mrs. Frankie Milley introduced and showed a new promotional video from Meningitis Angels.
- Mr. Sims announced that the National Immunization Awareness Month Observance is now posted on our web-page. The observance message is “Vaccinate for Life”.
- Mr. Sims discussed current rabies vaccine issues. Rabies vaccine manufactures are currently experiencing a vaccine shortage. They are working on seeking stockpile supply from the CDC. Until then, the manufacturers cannot ship to states until the CDC grants permission. An update was also provided on the proposed rule change for rabies.
- Members announced an upcoming congressional session to be held in Austin this September. Mr. Sims stated this session is a follow-up to the Immunization Summit held a couple of years ago. Some vaccine registry issues, medical data issues, and other changes are anticipated topics.
- Mrs. Kathy Dreyer reported the senior volunteers are working with a reminder- recall system emphasizing the 4th dose of DTaP. DSHS is working to try and incorporate this group’s efforts with ImmTrac.

ImmTrac Updates: Jack Sims

- Currently DSHS is working on meeting legislative mandates, such as the electronic reporting system due by September 1 or soon after.
- More research is needed regarding how Emergency Management Response will communicate with ImmTrac.
- The ImmTrac manager’s position is posted. Mr. Sims commended Mr. Claude Longoria for his exceptional contributions to ImmTrac over the past 5 years.

Wrap Up All

- Meeting Evaluation: The meeting location and dining facilities were acceptable.
- Participants enjoyed today’s discussions and the sharing of ideas.
- Participants voiced an interest in a future discussion of issues concerning legislative funding.
- On November 14-15 2008, the Texas Pediatric Society, St. David’s Hospital, and Texas Children’s Hospital will provide an opportunity for concerned providers to present issues to legislative staff. Ms. Harris reminded members that legislative representatives are on the

TISWG distribution list and will see the minutes. The minutes will be made available to these members via our webpage and direct electronic mail.

- Two future discussion items were requested:
 - The legacy registries and the problems of cross communication.
 - View the new Public Service Announcement created by Bexar County Medical Society and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District.
- Next meeting TBD around September 18th, 2008.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM.